## Brownfields - Old Matanuska Townsite

At the Old Matanuska Townsite, a private party, now insolvent stockpiled large amounts of contaminants, including military surplus petroleum products, PCBs, antifreeze, junk vehicles, glycol and other hazardous substances in a partial wetland. Eklutna, Inc. commissioned a Chilkat Environmental Phase 1 Environmental Site assessment leading to several agencies, including ADEC, EPA and Matanuska-Susitna Borough removing much of the source contaminants and some contaminated soil. Up to 10 nearby properties may be impacted secondarily through groundwater. No source materials were found on these properties, so their owners are not liable. NVE can work with affected landowners to develop assessment and, if needed cleanup grants. NVE intends to evaluate impacted landowners' and agencies' interest in designation of affected site area as a brownfield with potential as a compensatory wetlands restoration and conservation mitigation area, or other uses.



Old Matanuska Townsite source property includes a drum storage area with an estimated 52 drums stored on flatbed trailer and pallets behind the truck. Many of the drums were actively leaking.



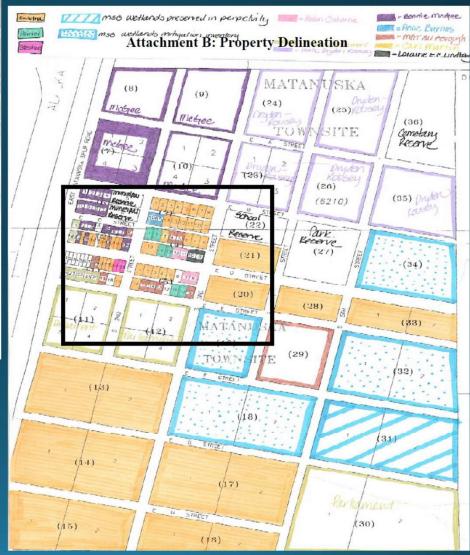
General setting of Old Matanuska Townsite Properties. In the floodplain of Cottonwood Creek, a silver salmon stream. No debris or contaminant sources were located on any of these lots.



Aerial photograph of Matanuska Townsite before cleanups

**Property Delineation Map** 

Photos from: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Matanuska Townsite Lot 15 Block 4 East Matanuska Spur Road Eklutna Incorporated, March 2009



## Good Morning Marc,

I have spoken to management, as well as the Department of Law, and have the following information:

- 1) Site research indicated that multiple parcels (up to nineteen) and the right of way were impacted by solid waste accumulated by Gerald Poirier, and were therefore named as part of the contaminated site known as the Old Matanuska Townsite ADEC File No. 2245.38.001. Some portions of this waste contained petroleum products, solvents, possible PCBs, and metals. A large cleanup was initiated from 2006-2009 which removed much of the solid waste and petroleum waste. After two visits to the site in 2015 and 2016, ADEC found evidence of contamination on Mr. Poirier's property, and in the Right of Way. ADEC did not find evidence of contamination on the other parcels, and at this time considers the other property owners possibly impacted landowners but not responsible parties. As one of the property owners, I consider Eklutna Inc. to be a possibly impacted landowner. I do not currently have any evidence to conclude that Eklutna Inc. is a responsible party.
- 2) I spoke to the Department of Law, and the information gathered on the possible responsible party ADEC named in 2016 (Michael Poirier; Gerald Poirier's son, and occupant of the land owned by the estate of Gerald Poirier) indicates that Michael Poirier will be unable to pay for any cleanup. At this time, ADEC considers the site to not have a viable responsible party. Since the drums located on the site pose a risk to human health and safety, ADEC is currently preparing to respond to the site to remove the drums. This action however, will not be sufficient to evaluate the site for closure, and ADEC recommends that parties involved continue to look for other funding resources to assist in characterization and cleanup.

I hope this information is sufficient for your use at the upcoming meeting. The Brownfields program may be able to assist with addressing some aspects of the site, and I continue to encourage you to stay in contact with ADEC and EPA for assistance in the application process. Please let me know if you would like more information.

Sincerely, Lisa Griswold Environmental Program Specialist ADEC SPAR CSP 555 Cordova Street Anchorage, AK 99501 (907) 269-2021 Townsite Airphoto showing locations of planned ADEC assessments.:

The 34 drums on the flat bed, and the three drums in the right of way will be characterized and removed.

Surface soil under the flatbed truck, under the three drums in the right of way, and the area of suspected wire burning will be tested for contaminants.

Monitoring wells will be used for contaminants testing at these 3 locations.



NVE and EI could apply for DEC or EPA assessments on potentially impacted lands. Alaska Tribes are not eligible for EPA Brownfields cleanup grants, but NVE could help landowners apply.